

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3141
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
DECLARATION OF WETLAND SITES AS RAMSAR SITES
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of wetland sites designated as 'Ramsar' sites as on date;
- (b) the total areas covered by these sites alongwith locations thereof;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred on each of the Ramsar sites during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government have selected 10 new wetland sites as 'Ramsar' sites on the occasion of World Wetlands Day;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) the criteria fixed for the selection of the said sites; and
- (g) the benefits that accrue to any Wetland site after being declared as 'Ramsar' site?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a, b & c) Six wetland sites have been designated as 'Ramsar sites' as on date covering an area of 1,75,373 ha and an amount of Rs. 520.885 lakhs has been released for conservation of these Ramsar sites during the last three years as per the following details :

Name	State	Area (in ha)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
		1998-99	99-2000
		2000-01	
1. Harike Lake	Punjab	4,200	-
		13.00	50.00
2. Chilka Lake	Orissa	116,500	-
		36.00	55.00
3. Wular Lake	J&K	2,400	45.865
		-	30.00
4. Keoladeo Nat. Park	Rajasthan	2,873	20.00
		-	-
5. Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan	23,400	-
		36.26	-
6. Loktak Lake	Manipur	26,000	67.48
		97.28	70.00

(d & e) Ten Wetlands have been identified by the Government for designation as Ramsar sites as per the details given below :

Name of the wetland	State
i) Tso Murari	J&K
ii) Deepar Beel	Assam
iii) Kabar Tal	Bihar
iv) Bhitarkanika Sanctuary	Orissa
v) Andaman & Nicobar Islands	
vi) Lali Sanctuary	Arunachal Pradesh
vii) Pong Dam	Himachal Pradesh
viii) East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal

- ix) Point Calimere Sanctuary Tamil Nadu
- x) Pulicat Lake Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh.

(f & g) Wetlands are considered to be of international importance if they contain rare or unique examples of a natural or near natural wetland found within the appropriate bio-geographic region. Criteria adopted for selection of wetlands, inter-alia, include uniqueness, presence of vulnerable and endangered species which require conservation and supporting flora and fauna for biodiversity conservation.

Benefits that accrue include formulating guidelines on wise use of wetlands; facilitating formulation of national level policies for protection, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands; access to expert advice on wetlands through Ramsar Bureau; and the possibility of obtaining financial assistance from Ramsar Convention small grants funds, bilateral and multilateral externally aided projects and Global Environment Facility.